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Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Arlington's open space is a diverse combination of historical, natural, and recreational areas. This chapter discusses the most significant publicly and privately owned open space and recreational facilities and provides a listing in table format of many other parcels.

A. Brief History of Arlington's Open Space

Arlington's open space is a precious and limited resource that has been difficult to acquire, develop, and maintain. Much of the open space inventory that exists along the Mill Brook, for example, was reclaimed from abandoned millponds, dumping areas or fallow marshes. The Minuteman Bikeway now rests on what was once a railroad corridor. This rail/trail conversion took almost 20 years to complete after its original conception in the early 1970s and was dedicated in 1992. Today, thousands of people use the bikeway, which connects many of the Town's open and historical spaces, for both recreation and commuting. It is regularly identified as one of the Town's favorite open space resources.

Charles Eliot's 1926 Town Plan provided a thoughtful blueprint for preserving open space as a cohesive and important element of the Town's

layout. Some of Eliot's ideas from 1926 have lived on in subsequent open space plans of 1973 and 1979, but many of his ideas have not been realized, and some of those opportunities are now lost. Included in his plans was a linear park along Mill Brook and a Town Center park. Eliot also suggested offering the public complete access to Town water bodies. Comments and objectives in other sections of this 2015 Plan address both the linear park and water body access issues.

Open space has been and will likely continue to be a concern for the Town of Arlington. As an inner suburb of the Boston/Cambridge metropolitan region, Arlington has been nearly built out for decades, and its population is again increasing as many younger families and retirees want to live in an attractive town with public transportation close to the city. Concerns about encroachment on the few remaining natural areas remain as pressure for new housing and commercial development also increase.

Arlington has had no opportunity to avail itself of means designed for legal protections for forestry and agriculture and horticultural uses (Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B); there are no such properties in the Town. State-owned land managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly Metropolitan District Commission/MDC) is part of the Alewife Reservation, and other DCR parcels in Arlington include the Ed Burns Arena and land around the Medford Boat Club on the Mystic Lakes. The state Department of Public Works and Massachusetts Water Resources Authority also manage a number of parcels, and Mass Highway owns the footpath along the southern edge of Spy Pond.

These state-managed parcels receive protection as Article 97 lands. Article 97 protected lands are those purchased for the purpose of parkland and conservation of open space and are under the jurisdiction of the Park and Recreation Department or the Conservation Commission. The protection that is offered to Article 97 lands is that a two-thirds vote of the local governing body (i.e., Town Meeting) as well as a two-thirds vote of the State legislature is required to transfer them to another purpose. A number of municipal properties, as listed in the accompanying table, also receive this protection.

Local bylaws add a level of protection in our efforts to preserve our recreational and undeveloped areas. Town Meeting in 2001 created an Open Space Zoning District to further protect recreational and undeveloped public land. Arlington's limited open spaces that are owned by the Town have been placed under the jurisdiction of a Town department or commission most appropriate for the designated use of the land; they are the stewards of those lands under their jurisdiction. By so doing, disposition of these properties must be brought before Town Meeting for public hearing and approval. Similarly, a change in zoning designation would require Town Meeting approval. Additionally, all change of outdoor use or new development for outdoor use requires an Environmental Design Review by the Arlington Redevelopment Board (Zoning Bylaw, Article 11.06).

B. Arlington's Open Space—Major Parcels and Facilities

Currently Arlington has more than 550 acres of publicly held open space, which includes Arlington's Great Meadows and some of the land surrounding the Arlington Reservoir located in the Town of Lexington (Map 5-1). An additional 118 acres are privately owned, of which the Winchester Country Club, Belmont Country Club, Arlington Catholic High School Field, and Kelwyn Manor Playground are the only parcels used for recreation. Of those, only the Winchester Country Club is open to the public for a fee.

The most significant changes in open space acreage since the 2007 Plan are the sale and protection of land at the former Symmes Hospital site and Elizabeth Island in Spy Pond. Both are privately held lands with state-approved conservation restrictions protecting all or part of the property for conservation and public access. At Symmes, 8.7 acres of the 18-acre site are protected in two landscaped parks and separate woodlands, and at Elizabeth Island the entire 2-acre island is owned by the Arlington Land Trust.

The narratives in this chapter briefly describe these and other large and noteworthy open spaces, including a brief history of the parcel and its conservation and/or recreational use. The first section describes three corridors and greenways that span much of the town, and the following section includes descriptions and site maps of 20 major open spaces and recreational facilities. All public and private open space and recreation sites in Arlington are listed in Table 5.2 at the back of this section.

Key to Sites on Map 5-1. Open Spaces and Recreational Facilities

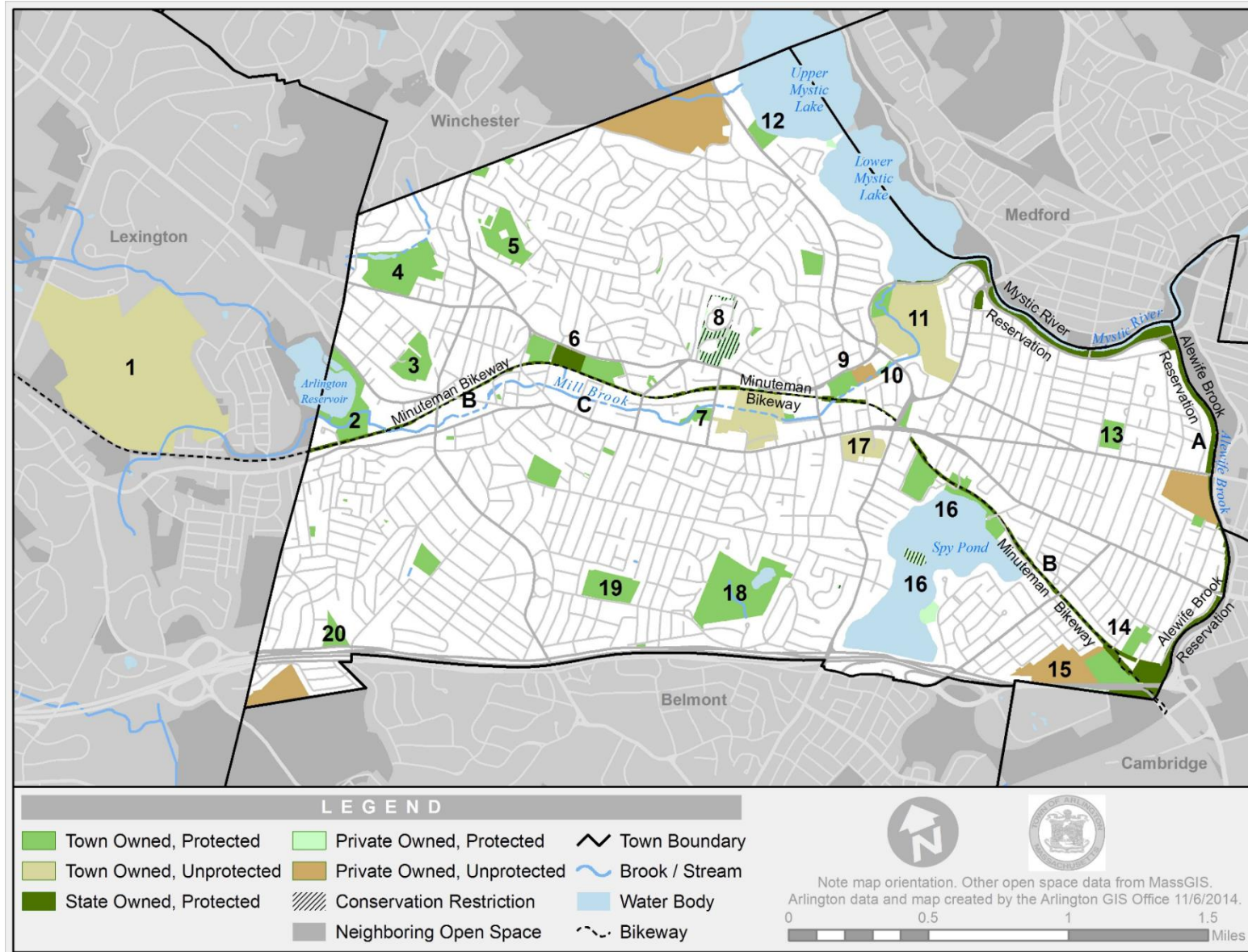
Corridors and Greenways

- A. Alewife Brook Reservation and Greenway
- B. Minuteman Bikeway
- C. Mill Brook

Open Spaces and Recreational Facilities

- 1. Arlington's Great Meadows
- 2. Arlington Reservoir and Hurd/Reservoir Fields
- 3. Mount Gilboa
- 4. McClennen Park
- 5. Turkey Hill Reservation
- 6. Summer Street Sports Complex
- 7. Wellington Park
- 8. Symmes Woods and Parks
- 9. Buzzell Fields
- 10. Cooke's Hollow
- 11. Meadowbrook Park and Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
- 12. Mystic Lakes and Window-On-The-Mystic
- 13. North Union Park/Lussiano Field
- 14. Thorndike and Magnolia Park and Fields
- 15. Mugar Land
- 16. Spy Pond, Spy Pond Park and Fields, Elizabeth Island, and Kelwyn Manor Park
- 17. Civic Block
- 18. Menotomy Rocks Park
- 19. Robbins Farm Park
- 20. Poets Corner

Map 5-1. Major Open Space Parcels and Recreational Facilities



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Corridors and Greenways

A. Alewife Brook Reservation and Greenway

Starting from the Minuteman Bikeway near Magnolia and Thorndike Fields, the Alewife Brook Greenway, completed in 2013, follows the Alewife Brook to Bicentennial Park at Massachusetts Avenue and then continues past Broadway to the intersection with the Mystic Valley Parkway near the Medford line. The greenway path and boardwalks are part of the Alewife Brook Reservation, a Massachusetts state park located in Cambridge, Arlington, and Somerville, managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Most of this 120-acre urban wild is in Cambridge, including extensive wetlands, the Little River, and some wooded upland and meadow areas. The reservation serves as a habitat for numerous indigenous and migratory birds and other fauna including deer and coyote. Little Pond and Blair Pond provide spring spawning grounds for anadromous herring, which migrate from the Atlantic Ocean via the Mystic River and Alewife Brook, a tributary that drains the Little River.

The 1.4 mile long section of the reservation in Arlington runs beside the Alewife Brook on the town's eastern border, parallel to Alewife Brook Parkway. It offers a pleasant walk or bicycle ride, and the brook is accessible by canoe or kayak when the water level is high enough. The greenway links to the Fresh Pond Pathway and Watertown Greenway along the Charles River. To the north it links to Medford and the Mystic River Reservation.

Size: 120 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Current Use: Transportation/Recreation

B. Minuteman Bikeway

The Minuteman Bikeway, a converted Boston and Maine Railroad corridor, was completed in 1992 after more than 20 years of planning and construction. Nearly 11 miles long, it begins in Cambridge (at the Arlington border near the Alewife MBTA Station), passes through Arlington and Lexington, and ends near Bedford Center. Each community is responsible for the section in its community, and efforts to strengthen the tri-community oversight are on-going. In 2000 the approximately three-mile section that passes through the entire length of Arlington was renamed the Donald R. Marquis/ Minuteman Bikeway in recognition of the former town manager who was an advocate for the creation of the Bikeway, and a strong supporter of it.

The bikeway travels through commercial, industrial, and residential areas and open spaces. In addition to being a popular commuter route, the bikeway is a linear park that connects significant historical sites and attractions as well as many conservation areas and park lands in Arlington, Lexington, and Bedford. Bikeway use by both commuters and recreational users has more than doubled since 2010; volunteers participate in seasonal user counts, and the DPW plows the Arlington stretch following winter storms so it is accessible to bikers and walkers.

Severe weather events, including flood damage and microbursts near Spy Pond, regularly damage the Bikeway surface, and the DPW has had difficulty keeping up with maintenance of both surface and shoulders. Local volunteers help with landscape maintenance and clean-up in spring and fall. Current issues affecting the Bikeway include extending the hours of use, roadway crossings, installation of lighting, drainage improvements, and surface maintenance.

Size: 30.1 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Towns of Arlington, Lexington, and Bedford/ MBTA

Current Use: Transportation/Recreation

C. Mill Brook

Mill Brook is formed by the confluence of Munroe and Sickie Brooks (a.k.a. Cataldo Brook), which flow south and east from Lexington and meet next to the Arlington Reservoir. Arlington's Great Meadows in East Lexington is a large wetland that contributes to the source and flow of water in Mill Brook. Munroe Brook was dammed in the early 1870s to form the Arlington Reservoir, and spillways now control the amount of water discharged into Mill Brook near the Lexington boundary.

Mill Brook drops about 140 feet on its way from the Reservoir to Lower Mystic Lake over a distance of about 2.7 miles. Mill Brook flows parallel to Massachusetts Avenue and the Minuteman Bikeway eastward to Arlington Center, where the brook turns northeastward to cross Mystic Street and flow through Mount Pleasant Cemetery into Lower Mystic Lake. More than 40 percent of the brook is culverted and 30 percent is channelized but exposed. Only a few short sections of the brook are in an open, natural condition. The entire brook is in need of substantial restoration and remediation to improve biodiversity, water quality, drainage, and flood control.

About 35 percent of the land within 100 yards of the brook is owned by the Town of Arlington, and these public areas are used primarily for open space and recreational activities (e.g., playing fields, tennis courts, climbing wall, playgrounds, and parks). The areas not owned by the Town are largely industrial and commercial properties, a few historical sites, and several residential neighborhoods.

Proposals for restoring Mill Brook and creating a park on its banks date back to the Town's Comprehensive Plan of 1926, which recommended a series of pocket parks along the brook. Subsequently the Town acquired the abutting areas now known as Wellington Park and Cooke's Hollow. A 1977 study for the Arlington Conservation Commission resulted in a general plan for developing such a linear park. As subsequent development occurred in the Mill Brook area, some special permit approvals were "conditioned" with requirements that could contribute to the linear park concept. Direction and momentum for the park has always been

fragmented, however, and the Town has not persevered to bring the park to fruition. In 2014-2015 the Town is undertaking a master plan process,



Mill Brook and the waterfall at Cooke's Hollow. Credit: Brian Barber

and revival of the Mill Brook Linear Park idea is an element in the plan.

Open Spaces and Recreational Facilities

1. Arlington's Great Meadows

The largest open space resource owned by the Town of Arlington, containing approximately 183 acres of land, is located entirely in Lexington as a result of a water supply management system installed during the mid-nineteenth century and later discontinued. The largest part of Arlington's Great Meadows is a flat, marshy plain containing a series of hummocks. Surrounding the plain are wooded uplands criss-crossed by walking trails. The Minuteman Bikeway forms the southern border and offers the most

direct access to the trails. Other borders are mostly residential and there are only a few access points.

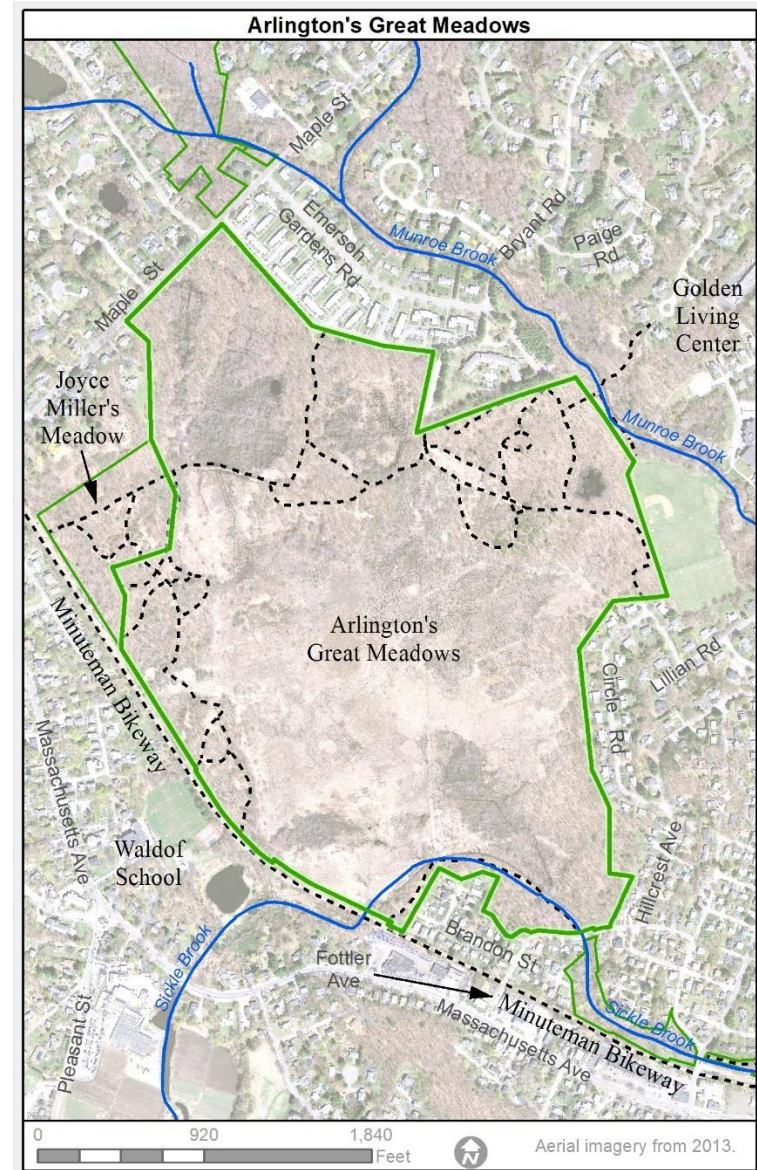
More than 50 percent of the site is certified vegetated wetland. The Lexington zoning bylaw protects the wetlands in Great Meadows by zoning them as Wetland Protection District (WPD). The Lexington Conservation Commission and various citizen groups have taken an active role in assuring that the Great Meadows remain in its natural state. A consultant was hired by the Arlington Conservation Commission in 1999 to prepare an inventory of the natural resources of this area, along with some management recommendations (Clark 2001).

Since publication of the report, a very active Friends of Arlington Great Meadows (FoAGM) organization of Arlington and Lexington residents has formed to serve as stewards of the property. The group has completed extensive surveying of plants and animals, organized annual bird watching and geology walks, and has improved the visitor support facilities and better protected the environment in the Meadows by building a series of boardwalks. A recent project has been controlled clearing of an upland meadow area to provide a more open habitat for wildlife and visitors. For information about this and other projects, visit the Friends website at www.foagm.org/.

Size: 183.3 acres (entirely in Lexington)

Managing Agency/Owner: Board of Selectmen/Department of Public Works/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Conservation/Passive recreation



2. Arlington Reservoir and Hurd/Reservoir Fields

The Arlington Reservoir site incorporates a variety of natural and recreational resources. Created in the early 1870s to supply Arlington's municipal water system, the Reservoir has not been used for public drinking water since the Town joined the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) in 1899, yet the name "reservoir" remains in use. It is a 65-acre man-made recreational and flood-control pond on the Arlington/Lexington border in the northwestern section of Town. Less than half of the open water is in Arlington, yet the Town owns and manages the entire perimeter as well as part of Munroe Brook, its primary source whose watershed includes Reed's Brook and Arlington's Great Meadows (located in Lexington). Several Lexington storm drains also send water into this water body.

The Reservoir has a mile-long wooded walking trail around its circumference that is open to the public. At different times throughout the year, the Reservoir is a recreational resource for walking, birding, jogging, and cross-country skiing, and the Arlington High School cross-country team uses the trails for meets and training. The Reservoir provides a diverse habitat for wildlife, and nearly 200 species of birds have been sighted there.

In 1935, the Arlington Board of Park Commissioners engaged the national Works Progress Administration (WPA) to develop a sandy beach on the Reservoir's eastern shore. The Town significantly improved this beach in the late 1970s, adding filters and an embankment to separate the swimming area from the rest of the Reservoir. The beach now includes a filtered/chlorinated swimming area with a ramp for people with disabilities, a bathhouse, vending machines, a concession area, and playground. The beach is supervised by certified lifeguards and other beach staff when open. Boston.com recently listed Reservoir Beach as one of the state's top ten swimming holes.



The earthen dam around the southern edge of the Reservoir is some 600 yards long and as high as 14 feet, although the water level is kept much lower except during the swimming season. The water discharges into Mill Brook through a sluice gate.

In 1999, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) expressed concern about dam safety and recommended that the Town cut down all the trees and shrubs along the dam structure and riprap the bank. Working in collaboration, Town officials, engineers from Weston & Sampson and members of the Reservoir Committee of Vision 2020 Environment Task Group partnered to accomplish three goals: improve dam safety, enhance recreation, and preserve the natural landscape. The work succeeded in balancing public health and safety with public interests and environmental issues and received two prestigious awards, from the American Public Works Association and the American Consulting Engineers Council of Massachusetts (ACEC/MA).

As part of the dam rehabilitation project, funding was committed for planting over 100 trees. An anonymous donor contributed additional funds toward the creation of a habitat garden of native plants, and volunteers from the Reservoir Committee, working closely with the Town's DPW, began construction of a Wildlife Habitat Garden along both sides of the new spillway in 2010. The garden uses native plants that attract wildlife and provides an attractive and educational opportunity for the many people who visit it.

A serious water chestnut infestation is being controlled by manual and machine harvesting. The Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works and the Reservoir Committee are actively monitoring the water quality for additional invasive waterweeds. The Reservoir Committee maintains a website with both historical and current information: www.arlington2020.org/reservoir.

In recent years, the Town has lost storage space for winter snow removal and has been using the parking lot of the Arlington Reservoir for temporary storage. There is some concern that the continued use of the area for this

purpose could have a negative effect on the recreational uses and water quality of this valued natural resource area.

In the summer of 2013, the Park and Recreation Commission conducted a survey of residents to determine the future needs of the Reservoir Beach area. Within the next few years, it is expected that a multi-year, multi-phase capital project will be needed to address the aging infrastructure of the beach and to upgrade the amenities. For the short-term, new picnic tables were added, along with fresh coats of paint to the facilities, and efforts to curb the geese from fouling the sand and water continue each season.

Hurd and Reservoir fields, adjacent to the Reservoir off Drake Road, offer two softball/youth baseball diamonds. Hurd Field is lighted and used for adult softball play in addition to youth baseball and softball. An open field area is used for soccer, and there is access to the Minuteman Bikeway. The Town received a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant for a Porous Pavement Education Project at Hurd Field, which funded the installation of a new porous parking surface at the field. A rain garden was also installed in 2013 with support from the Town and the Mystic River Watershed Association.

Arlington Reservoir:

Size: 21.3 acres in Arlington (65 acres total in Arlington and Lexington)

Managing Agency/Owner: Department of Public Works/ Park and Recreation Commission/ Town of Arlington

Current Use: Passive and active recreation/Flood control/Conservation

Hurd and Reservoir Fields:

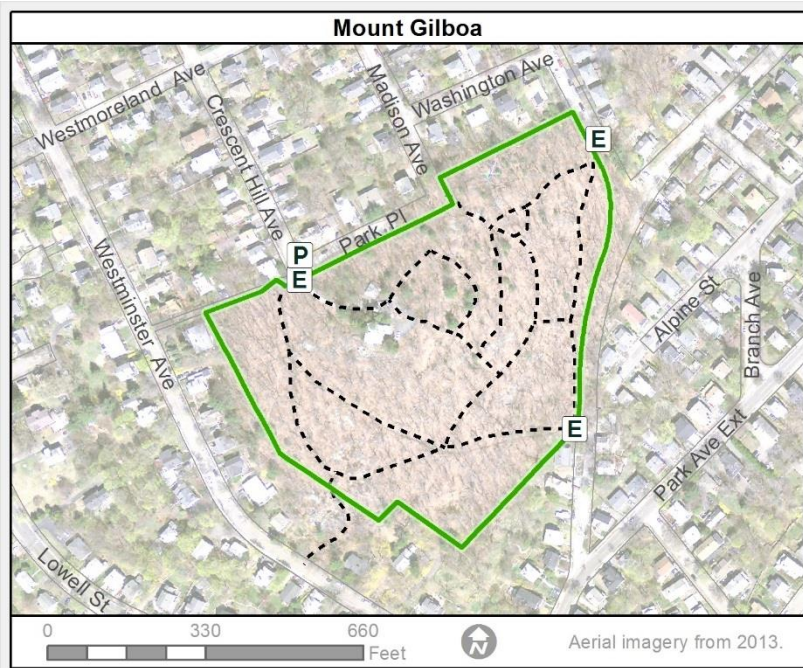
Size: 6.1 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Active and passive recreation/Conservation

3. Mount Gilboa

Mount Gilboa is a tall, tree-covered hill with a single house on top. The house belongs to the Conservation Commission and is rented by the Town. Discussions about the future of the house as a Town-owned asset are underway, including its possible removal to create a vista park at the top of hill. Trails through the surrounding woods are used regularly for walking and bird watching.



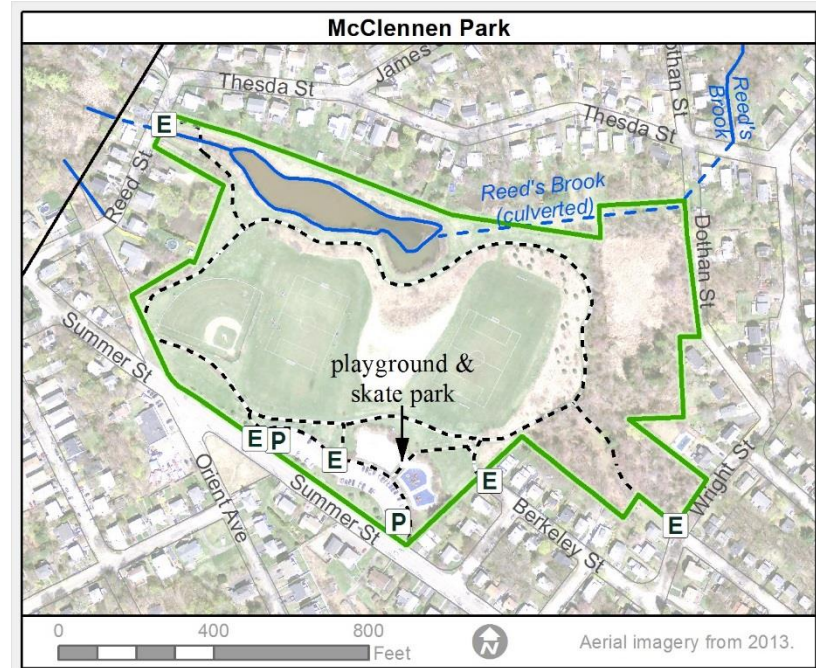
Size: 10.7 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Conservation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Passive recreation/Conservation

4. McClennen Park

Arlington reacquired this 20-acre site from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in March 1995. Before 1959, Reed's Brook was agricultural land, and from 1959 to 1969 Arlington operated a landfill in this area. The Town closed the land pursuant to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) policies and regulations while planning for its restoration and reuse. The Reed's Brook site is complicated by the fact that the brook runs through the site and eventually flows into the Arlington Reservoir and then to the Mill Brook. The brook was once enclosed in a culvert, but part of the culvert collapsed and has since been excavated to alleviate a flooding problem that affected the adjacent residential neighborhood.



As a result of many studies, the Arlington Redevelopment Board determined that the site was most valuable to the Town as open space and recommended to the 1997 Town Meeting that the land be developed for conservation and recreation use. Town Meeting appropriated \$5.8 million and the area was redeveloped to address the flooding problems, properly close the landfill, and develop new open space uses. The plan proposed to completely replace the storm drain system, create a permanent retention pond and new wetland areas to serve as wildlife habitat, prevent exposure to landfill materials, construct two soccer fields and one baseball field, many trails, picnic areas, tot lots, and totally mitigate any existing environmental issues.

McClennen Park was dedicated on June 3, 2006 in tribute to former Arlington Planning Director Alan McClennen. The result is a wonderful new open space with something for everyone to enjoy, from the toddler playground to the sports playing fields and skateboarding area to the walking paths around the pond and wetlands. The State reconstructed Summer Street, and an off-street parking area was added.

A community garden is the only element of the original plans not included, because it was determined that digging the garden might penetrate the cap over the underlying trash dump. Interest exists in adding a dog off-leash recreation area (OLRA), which would require mediation with several parties in Lexington and a permit from the state DEP.

Size: 20.3 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Passive and active recreation

5. Turkey Hill Reservation

Turkey Hill Reservation contains the Turkey Hill water tower and land immediately surrounding it, which are owned by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). The Park and Recreation Commission has



jurisdiction over most of the land beyond the water tower; the Conservation Commission also oversees several small parcels. This area is heavily wooded, with many internal trails and foot paths that connect with adjacent roads, including a main access point at Dodge Street. Security concerns of the MWRA resulted in an attempt to limit access to the area, but discussions held with neighborhood residents, the MWRA and State and Town officials resulted in an acceptable policy for continued public access during daylight hours. A stewardship group organized through the Conservation Commission Land Stewards Program cares for the site.

Size: 10.7 acres

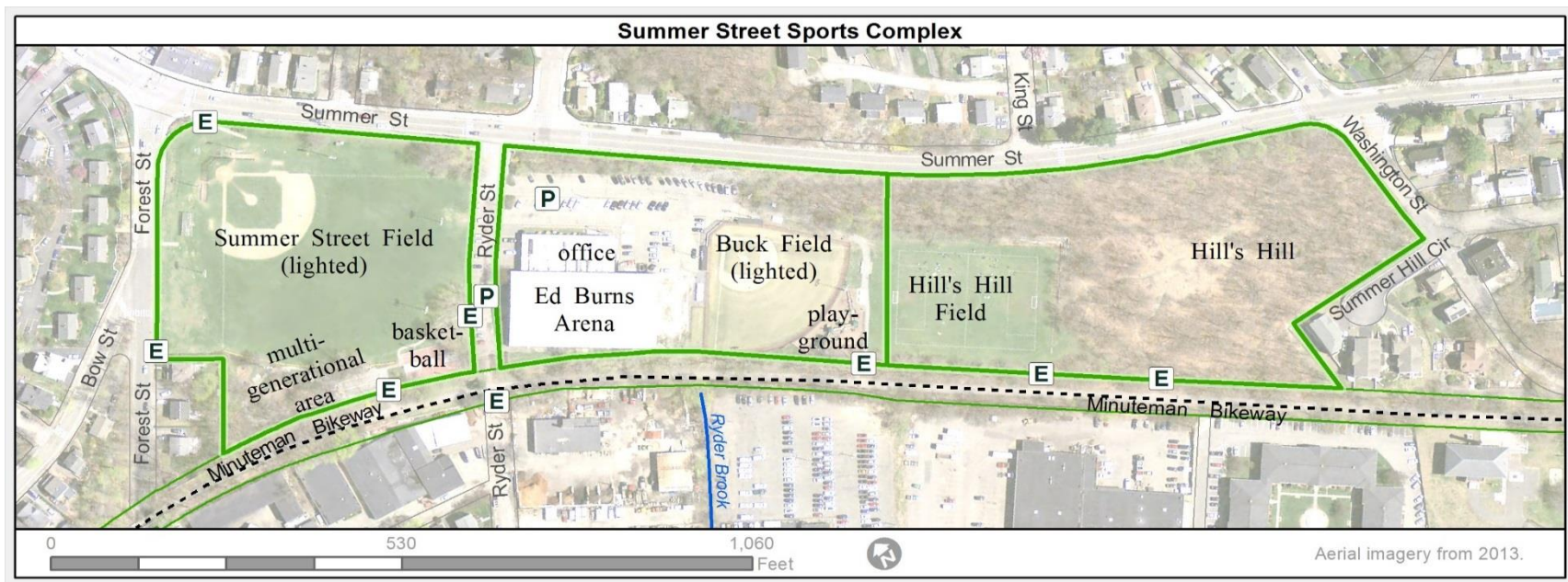
Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission /Conservation Commission/Town of Arlington/Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

Current Use: Recreation/Conservation

6. Summer Street Sports Complex

This major multi-sport complex at 422 Summer Street includes the Ed Burns Arena, Summer St. (a.k.a. Kenny) Field, Buck Field and Hill's Hill Field, and natural wooded areas. The property is located adjacent to the Minuteman Bikeway and the baseball, field hockey, youth baseball/softball and multi-use fields are used by local high school and youth sports organizations. Baseball and youth baseball fields are lighted for evening play. The area also includes a multi-generational recreation area with fitness stations, tot play equipment, a bocce court, and basketball court. A completely handicapped accessible children's play structure with a zero-entry ramp is a major attraction that was completed within the last few years.

The state-owned Ed Burns Arena is also the Arlington Recreation Department's headquarters. Built in 1971, the facility originally offered a



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High School Hockey at the Ed Burns Arena. Credit: Ann LeRoyer

seasonal regulation-size skating rink. The Ed Burns Arena is now a year-round, multi-sport facility with an ice rink that operates during the fall and winter, and batting cages, indoor soccer programs, and summer camps in the spring and summer. It is used for a variety of special events and serves as home facility for the Arlington Hockey and Figure Skating Association and Arlington High School and Arlington Catholic High School boys and girls hockey teams. Public skating as an activity for both adults and children has grown significantly over the past several years, and the department offers a variety of instructional programs and special skating events. Skate rentals, sharpening and concessions are also offered.

Size: 12.7 acres (fields) and 2.4 acres (arena and parking)

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington and Department of Conservation and Recreation/ Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Current Use: Active and passive recreation

7. Wellington Park

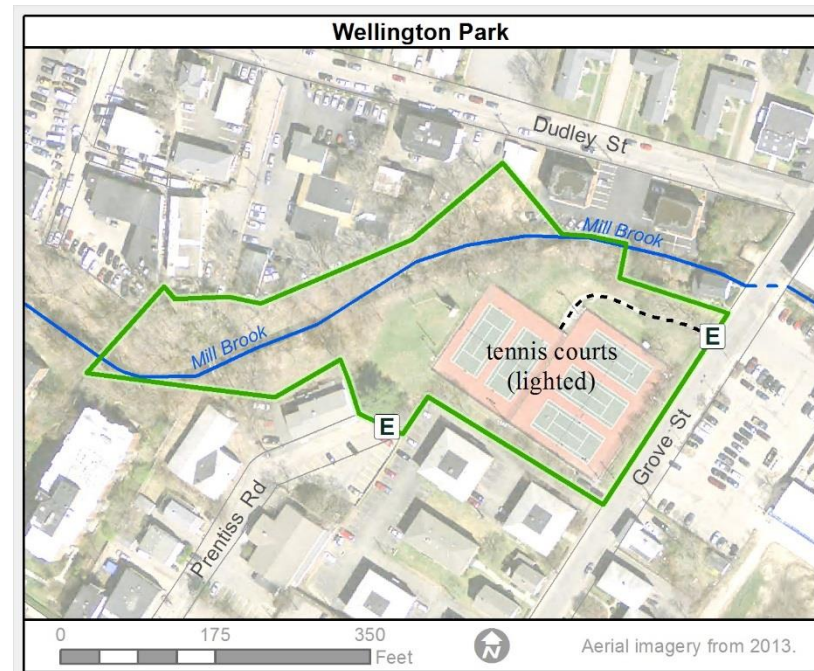
The Ethel Wellington Park is located on Grove St. across from Arlington's Department of Public Works headquarters. The park has five lighted tennis courts, which were renovated in 2011, and an adventure/ropes course that

was installed with funds from a Carol M. White federal physical education grant to the Town to help promote health and wellness programs in the community. Overgrown natural areas that abut Mill Brook are in need of attention and have great potential to become an attractive passive recreation area. On-street parking is available.

Size: 3 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Active and passive recreation



8. Symmes Woods and Parks

On March 31, 2001, by a margin of 64 to 36 percent, Arlington voters approved a debt exclusion to allow the Town to acquire the entire 18-acre Symmes property off Summer Street from owners Lahey Clinic and HealthSouth, in order to be able to control development of the site. The property included several former hospital buildings, a vacant former nurses' residence, several acres of parking lots, and about nine acres of undeveloped land, mostly steep wooded slopes. The purchase and sale was completed in April 2002, and the property was put under the Arlington Redevelopment Board (ARB)'s jurisdiction. A Symmes Advisory Committee (SAC) created by Town Meeting held numerous meetings to help evaluate the project and the various private development options for it. The SAC submitted its final report to the ARB and Town Meeting in April 2003, and the ARB and private development entity Symmes Redevelopment Associates (SRA) finalized a Land Disposition Agreement in June 2007. Town Meeting subsequently approved zoning changes necessary for that development.

After a lengthy public process and delays associated with the downturn of the economy in 2008, a new owner began construction in the spring of 2012. By 2014 the developer, Arlington 360 LLC, had completed a 164-unit apartment complex and 12 townhouse condominiums. Arlington 360 sold a two-acre portion of the Symmes site half way up the hill to Shelter/Brightview Arlington for a 90-unit assisted living facility. Construction began in the spring of 2013 and was completed by the summer of 2014.

The most prominent open space features of the development are two parks and about six acres of woods and buffer zones. The half-acre Hattie Symmes Park at the top of the hill has commanding views of Arlington and Boston to the east. Named for the daughter of Stephen Symmes who founded the hospital in her honor, the park features pathways, benches, and extensive landscaping. A second hillside park of almost two acres abuts the upper boundary of the Symmes Woods. It is designed for passive recreation with views of the Boston skyline framed through the trees. Named for Nora A. Brown, the long-time head of the nurses' facility at the





View of Boston overlooking Nora A. Brown Park. Credit: Richard A. Duffy

hospital, it contains pervious pathways, mowed strips within an open meadow area, and landscaped beds, as well as some benches and picnic tables.

Both parks are maintained by the development company at its expense, but are open to the public under the same rules and regulations as those of other Town parks. The Symmes Woods covers the relatively flat area between Summer Street, the new Nora Brown Park, and the assisted living facility. This former municipal tree farm is dominated by Norway Maple trees. After the area is restored, this woodland will be accessible to the public for passive use.

The Arlington Land Trust and Arlington Conservation Commission have responsibility for guiding the long-term oversight of the woodlands and will foster the creation of a "Friends of Symmes Conservation Area" group including neighbors and new residents of the development who will participate in managing the woods. Management decisions likely will include whether and where to locate foot trails and what new species of trees should be planted to increase the health of the woods.

Management of the Hattie Symmes Park, Nora A. Brown Park, and Symmes Woods is governed by a management plan agreed to by the developers, the Arlington Redevelopment Board, the Arlington Land Trust, and the Arlington Conservation Commission. When all the construction work is completed, the parks and woodlands will be protected by a Conservation Restriction (CR) and Public Access Easement held by the Land Trust and Conservation Commission. The CR, which offers permanent legal protection for the land, was signed off by the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and by the Town of Arlington in 2014. Small property markers designate the CR boundaries.

Size: 8.7 acres of the total 18-acre site

Managing Agency/Owner: Arlington 360 and BrightView Assisted Living

Current Use: Conservation/Passive recreation



Symmes Woods on Summer Street. Credit: Ann LeRoyer

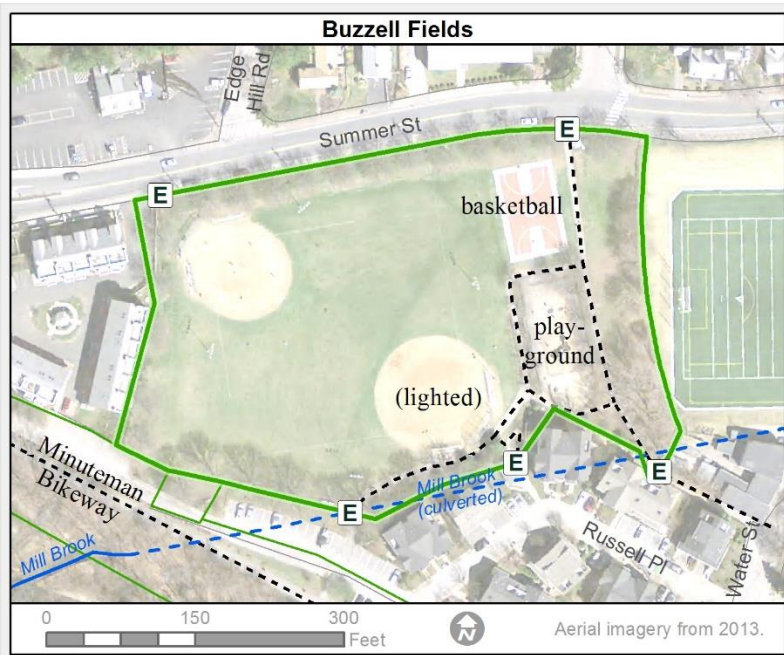
9. Buzzell Fields

Located on Summer St. just beyond the intersection with Mill St., this former mill pond and later town landfill was redeveloped into a recreation site and dedicated to Navy Lieutenant Richard H. Buzzell, a 1961 graduate of AHS killed on the battlefield during the Vietnam War. The park has two youth baseball/softball fields with outfield lights for night play, a basketball court, picnic tables, and a playground with slides, swings, and a sandbox with digging tools. On-street parking and access to the Minuteman Bikeway is available. In 2008, field renovations were completed that included drainage work, the installation of irrigation, and replacement of sand surfacing at the playground.

Size: 3.6 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Active recreation



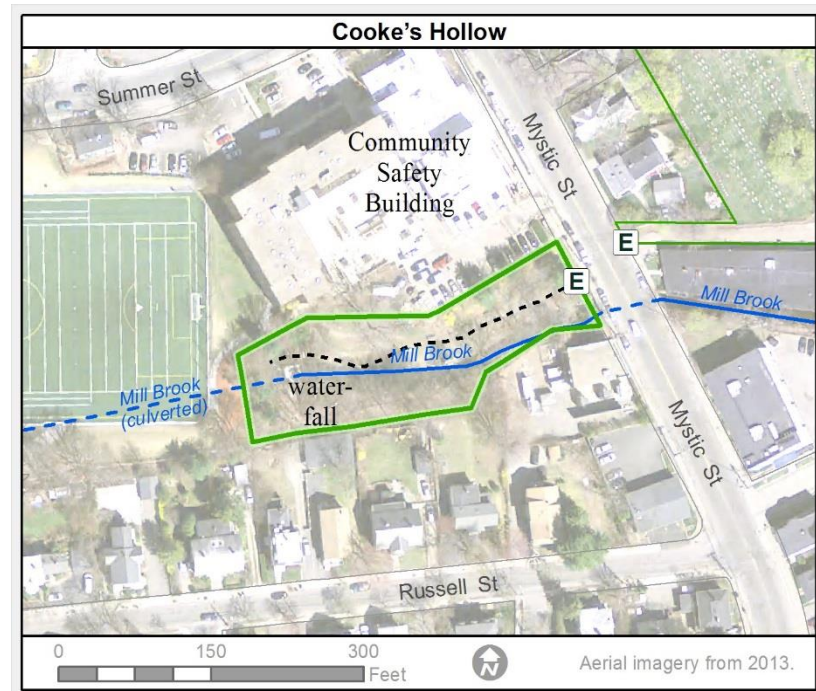
10. Cooke's Hollow

Cooke's Hollow is a long, narrow, partially landscaped area on both sides of Mill Brook near Mystic Street. This small park with the Town's only waterfall provides scenic vistas and park benches. Arlington acquired Cooke's Hollow from several sources in 1969, and the Arlington Garden Club has been instrumental in developing gardens and public access at the site. The area has deep historical and cultural roots dating back to the 1630s when Captain George Cooke built the first water-powered grist mill in Arlington (then Menotomy and part of Cambridge). Although potentially an attractive location it needs a lot of remediation work. It is also adjacent to a very busy road and has limited public access.

Size: .75 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Conservation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Passive recreation



11. Meadowbrook Park and Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

Meadowbrook Park is mostly wetlands, located adjacent to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery at the delta of the Mill Brook where it opens to the Lower Mystic Lake. The Conservation Commission managed an environmentally sensitive landscaping project to create a better wildlife habitat and make the area more accessible for walking and bird watching. The banks were stabilized and a deep marsh was dug, while protecting the integrity of the wetland area. Invasive reeds were removed in the fall of 2000 and native wetland and aquatic plants were planted around the marshes during the spring of 2001. The Conservation Commission organizes an annual cleanup event. Land stewards monitor this site, and there have also been some scout projects to improve visitor access.

Meadowbrook Park

Size: 3.3 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Conservation Commission/Town of Arlington

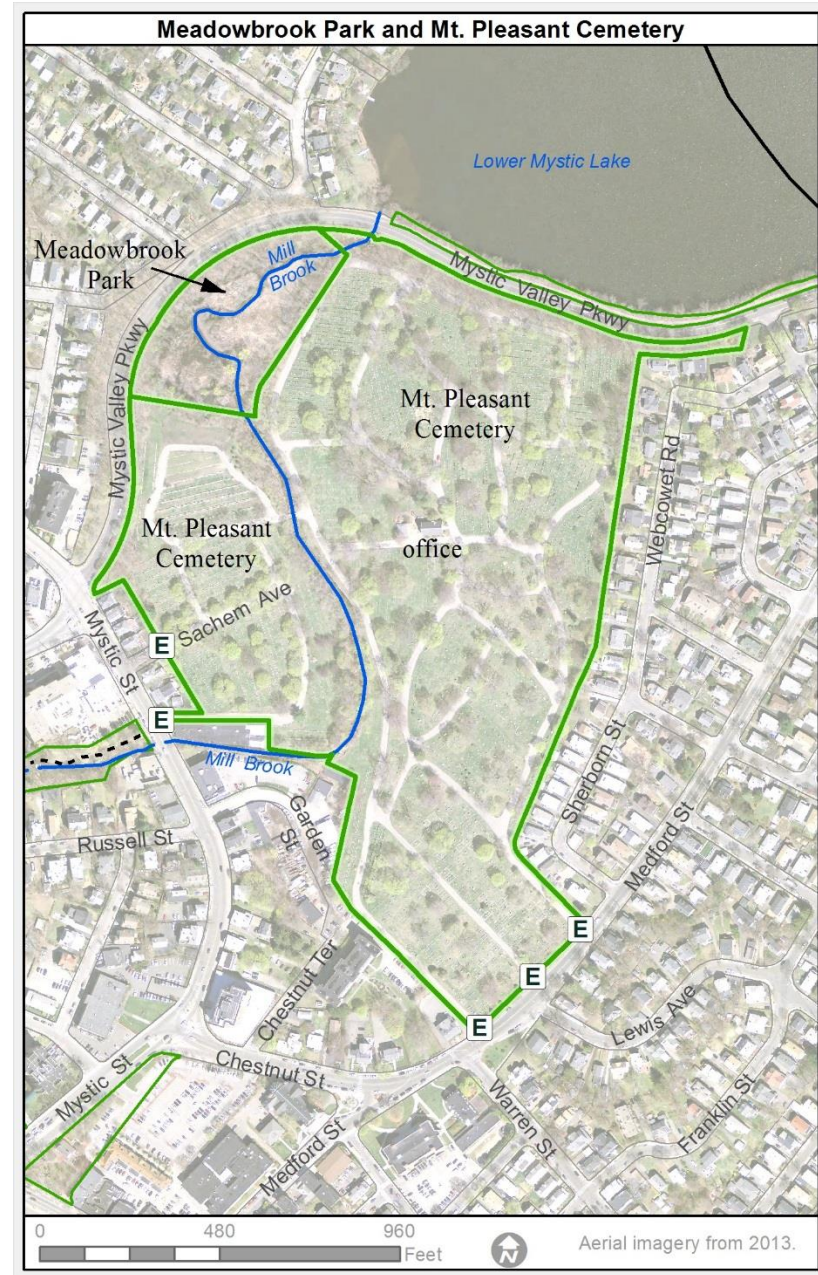
Current Use: Conservation

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

Size: 58.9 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Cemetery Commission/Department of Public Works/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Cemetery



12. Mystic Lakes and Window on the Mystic

The Upper and Lower Mystic Lakes are glacial lakes that straddle the boundaries of Arlington, Winchester, and Medford. While there is ample access along the northern shore in Medford and Winchester from Mystic Valley Parkway, most of the shoreline in Arlington abuts roadways or privately held land with developed house lots. In recent years the lakes have become known for seasonal sightings of Bald Eagles, Red-Tailed Hawks, Kestrels, and other raptors, as well as many species of ducks, shorebirds, and other fauna.

Window-On-The-Mystic is a three-acre waterfront parcel offering trails and views of the Upper Mystic Lake near the Winchester line. Arlington purchased this parcel in 1975 from private owners, with partial funding from Federal Community Development Block Grant Funds and the Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources. A recent Eagle Scout project made some access improvements to the site.



View of Upper Mystic Lake from Window-on-the-Mystic. Credit: David White



Mystic Lakes

Size: 99 acres in Arlington

Managing Agency/Owner: Department of Conservation and Recreation/Commonwealth of MA

Current Use: Recreation/Conservation

Window-on-the-Mystic

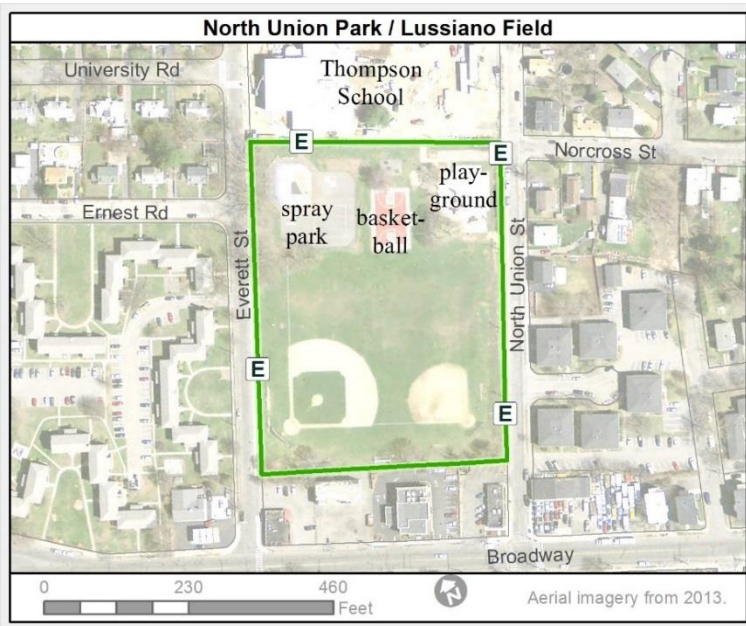
Size: 3 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Conservation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Conservation/Passive Recreation

13. North Union Park / Lussiano Field

Located on North Union St. in East Arlington next to the rebuilt Thompson School, the area has a neighborhood playground, basketball court, picnic tables, softball/youth baseball field, baseball field, and multi-purpose field used for soccer. In 2014 the spray pool underwent a major renovation to upgrade all water features and enhance landscaping, access, and amenities. It is generally open from June to August. On-street parking is available.



Size: 5.0 acres

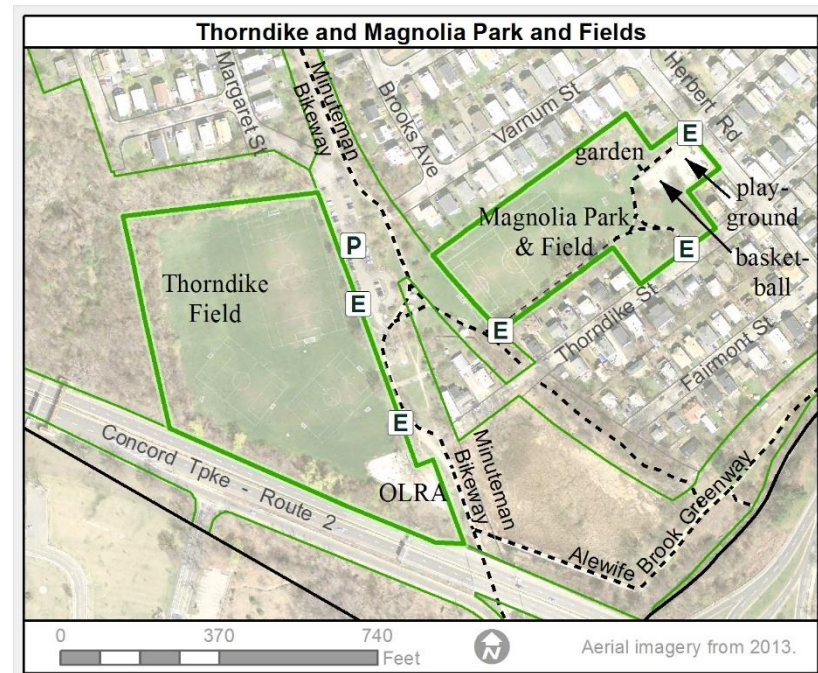
Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Active and passive recreation

14. Thorndike and Magnolia Park and Fields

Located in southeastern Arlington close to Route 2 and the Alewife MBTA station in Cambridge, several multi-purpose fields are used for soccer and

lacrosse, and a dedicated off-leash dog recreation area (OLRA) was established in 2012 next to the Thorndike fields. Magnolia Park has a children's playground, community gardens, a basketball court, and a multi-purpose sports field. Both properties have direct access to the Minuteman Bikeway. The Town's first porous pavement parking area project was completed by the Park and Recreation Commission at Thorndike Field. Located at the end of Margaret St., it provides parking for the Thorndike and Magnolia facilities and the Minuteman Bikeway. At the end of Magnolia St. there is limited on-street parking available near the entrance to Magnolia.



Thorndike and Magnolia Park and Fields

Size: 13.3 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

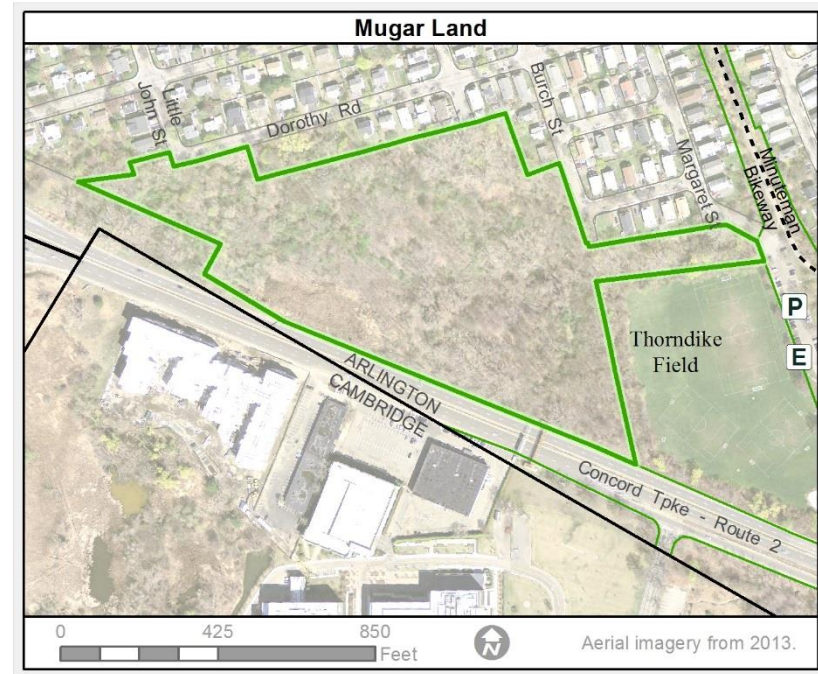
Current Use: Active and passive recreation

15. Mugar Land

The 17-acre Mugar parcel in East Arlington is the last large privately owned but undeveloped tract of land in the Town. It is adjacent to residential neighborhoods and heavily used Thorndike Field, and is bordered in part by Route 2. It is also adjacent to the Alewife Reservation, a mixed conservation and developed area in parts of North Cambridge, Belmont, and Arlington.

The Mugar property has been extensively altered and filled over many decades, but still has significant wetlands and is highly susceptible to flooding. It has been the subject of repeated yet unsuccessful development proposals for more than 60 years. Serious limitations to its development include the lack of legal access from Route 2 and the history of flooding problems. Current FEMA maps indicate that much of the parcel is considered floodplain and is not buildable.

The Town periodically hears that the Mugar family is proposing to seek permits to develop the property, but no such permits or plans have been approved. Town officials, concerned citizens, and the Arlington Land Trust have explored various ways to acquire the property in order to preserve it as undeveloped open space accessible to all Town residents. Town Meeting has voted to acquire the property as open space, but to date no significant progress has been made to either protect the land as public open space or to develop it. It remains undeveloped wetlands that is becoming even more important for flood control as extensive development continues on the Cambridge side of Route 2 and another large housing project is pending in the nearby Belmont Uplands.



Size: 16.8 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Private

Current Use: Undeveloped

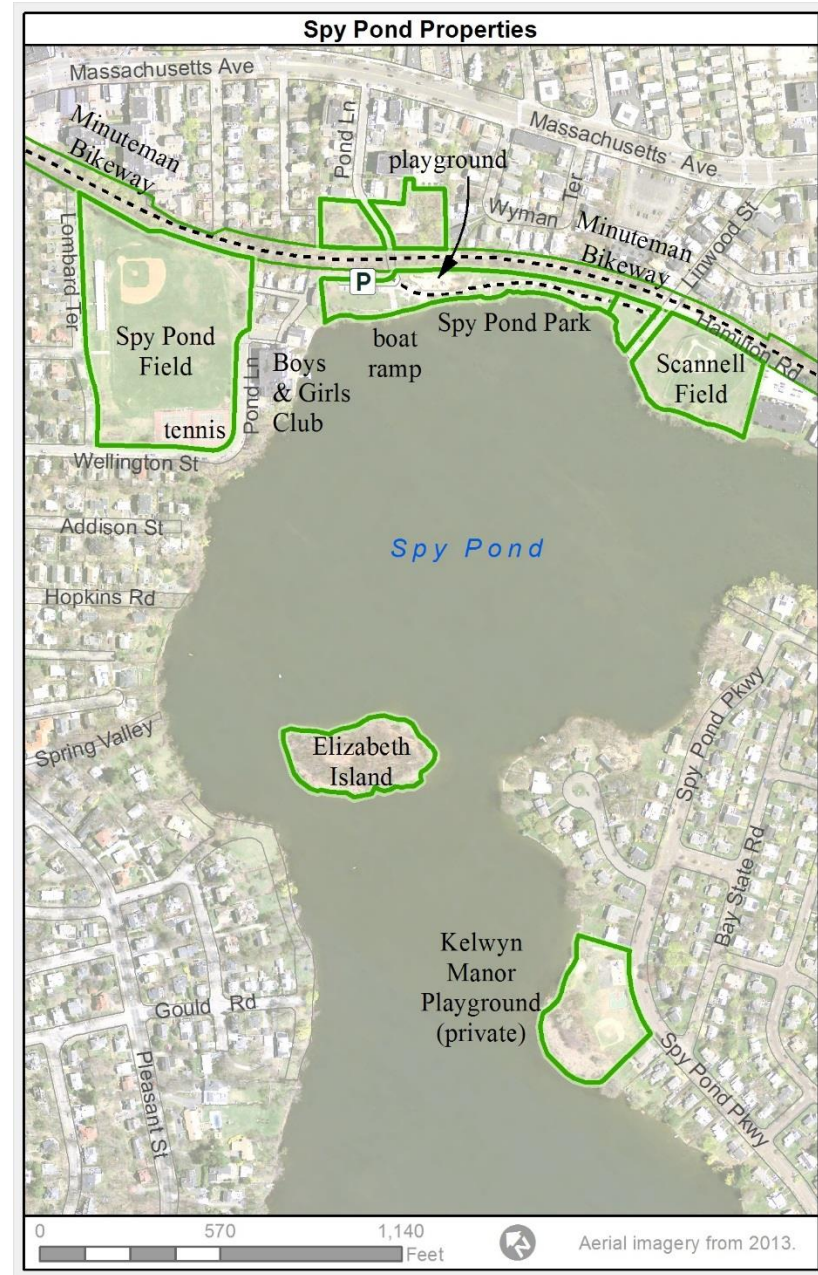
16. Spy Pond, Spy Pond Park and Fields, Elizabeth Island, and Kelwyn Manor Park

At 100 acres, Spy Pond is the largest body of water located entirely within Arlington. Spy Pond is near the Town Center, adjacent to Route 2, and close to the Alewife Reservation. Spy Pond is a "Great Pond," meaning it is a naturally occurring body of water 10 acres or greater in size. The pond was formed by a gigantic block of ice that broke away from the glacier leaving a "kettle hole" filled with glacial waters. Today, the source of the water in Spy Pond is precipitation and runoff, primarily stormwater drainage from the surrounding densely populated residential areas: no river or brook feeds it.

Historic Spy Pond is a beautiful and precious community resource, although access is limited because much of the shoreline is private property. Walking, boating, bird watching, fishing, and ice skating are popular pastimes, and many people, especially families with young children, enjoy Spy Pond Park and the play area near the Arlington Boys and Girls Club.

The public park includes a playground, public boat ramp, rain garden, walking path, benches, and picnic tables. The playground and landscaped park have been renovated over the past several decades, and ongoing maintenance is provided by DPW and the Friends of Spy Pond Park. In 2010, an infestation of sand wasps in the playground required the replacement of the surfacing materials. In recent years, a high school level crew team has used the pond as its practice location and the Recreation Department offers canoe and kayak rentals to the general public on weekends throughout the summer. The Town's Vision 2020 Spy Pond Committee and the Friends of Spy Pond Park are actively involved in stewardship and planning for pond and park improvements, including weed control treatments.

The major renovation of Spy Pond Park, undertaken to prevent soil erosion, improve drainage, remove invasive plant species, and deter geese, was completed in 2005, but continued monitoring and maintenance are required, as well as additional funding.





Enjoying Spy Pond in winter. Credit: Peter Belknap

The work included reconstruction and stabilization of the pond edge with native plantings to control erosion and deter geese; improved pond access points lined with boulders to prevent erosion; installation of a stepped stoned embankment at Linwood Circle; regrading and improved drainage; installation of a new pervious stabilized aggregate path with cobblestone edging from Pond Lane to Linwood Street; some removal of invasive plant species and pruning of existing trees and shrubs; construction of a boat ramp for emergency vehicle access and small private boats; installation of new trees, benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, interpretive signs and ground cover; and restoration of the existing lawn area at Pond Lane.

The recreational facilities at Spy Pond Field (a.k.a. Hornblower Field), located on Pond Lane opposite the Arlington Boys and Girls Club, include tennis courts that are slated for renovation in 2015, a baseball diamond used by the Arlington High School varsity baseball team and an open multi-purpose field used for high school and youth soccer.

Elizabeth Island, an undeveloped, heavily vegetated island in the middle of Spy Pond, was purchased by the Arlington Land Trust (ALT) in 2010 from a private owner who had announced that it would be put up for sale. The

island is now permanently protected and open to the public under a conservation restriction held jointly by the Arlington Conservation Commission and Mass Audubon. ALT is managing the island for passive recreation, with simple wooded trails and landing areas for small boats. It provides a nesting habitat for various species of duck, Canada Geese, Mute Swan, and other birds and wildlife. Several properly trained and licensed volunteers search for nests each spring and treat the goose eggs to keep the population under control.

Kelwyn Manor Park along the eastern shore of Spy Pond was set aside by the private Kelwyn Manor Association when the former farmland was developed for housing in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The park contains a small beach area, a playground that was refurbished with new equipment in the early 2000s, a half basketball court, and a Little-League-sized baseball diamond. A small thicket of aspen, maples, sumacs, and shrubs stands beside the beach; between it and the water a large area of phragmites has been nearly eliminated and replaced with native vegetation as part of a recent campaign to manage invasive plants. The Kelwyn Manor Association continues to maintain the park with annual cleanups and mowing, and uses it for occasional neighborhood events.

Spy Pond Park and Fields

Size: 100 acres (pond) and 15 acres (park and fields)

Managing Agency/Owner: Department of Public Works/Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Recreation/Conservation

Elizabeth Island

Size: 2 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Arlington Land Trust

Current Use: Conservation

Kelwyn Manor Park

Size: 1.8 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Kelwyn Manor Association

Current Use: Recreation

17. Civic Block

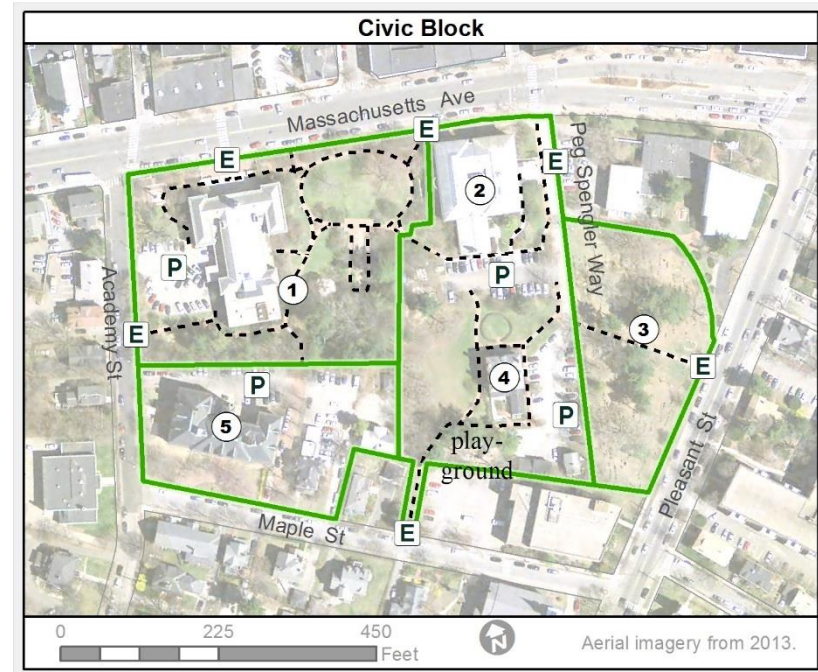
Located on Massachusetts Avenue in the heart of Arlington Center, the Civic Block contains three of Arlington's most iconic civic institutions: Robbins Memorial Town Hall (1), the Robbins Library (2), and the Whittemore-Robbins House (4). They are interconnected by the landscaped grounds and brick walkways of the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden. The Civic Block represents the generosity of the Robbins family, who donated funds for construction of these impressive landmarks. This historic block also includes the Old Burying Ground (3) and the Central School/Senior Center (5). All buildings within the Civic Block are well-preserved and are designated within the Arlington Center National Register Historic District.

The Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden (1913) was laid out as part of the Town Hall construction project. The original garden design included the Cyrus Dallin sculpture known as "The Menotomy Indian Hunter." In 1939, the Olmsted Brothers reconfigured the garden in a more natural design with a rubble rock base for the Dallin sculpture, with flowering trees and bushes, winding brick paths, a circular fountain and a pool, and a masonry garden wall surrounding the grounds. The Town has prepared a preservation master plan for the garden and repairs to the garden's sandstone and limestone wall were completed in 2013. Volunteers have undertaken some restoration work to the landscape. The garden is protected by a preservation restriction and is used for both community and private events.

Size: 2.7 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Town of Arlington

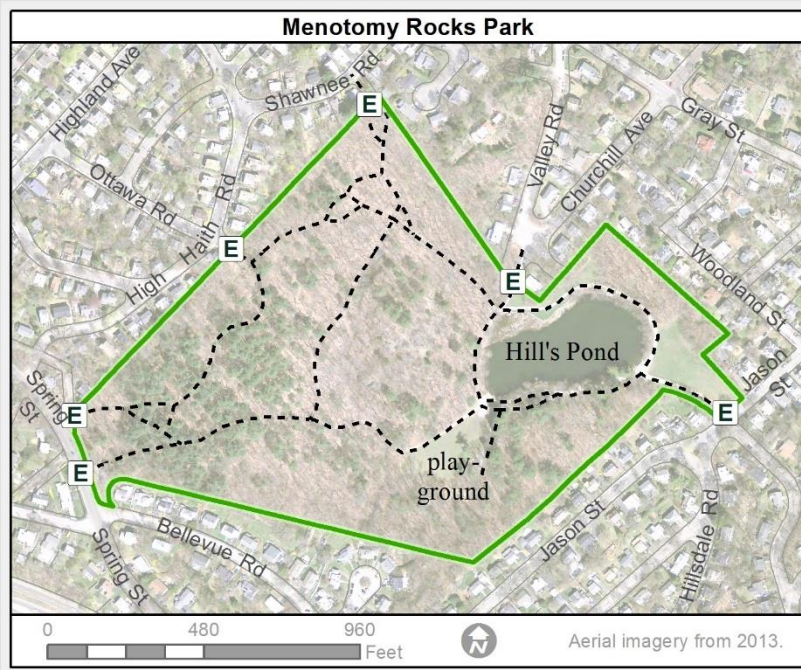
Current Use: Passive recreation/Historic preservation



Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden. Credit: Ann LeRoyer

18. Menotomy Rocks Park

This historic Town park, established in 1896, was also known as the “Devil’s Den” to the people of Arlington. The park is a blend of manmade areas (Hill’s Pond, fields and playground) and natural features (wooded and rocky sections). After a major dredging of the three-acre pond in 1993, the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park (FoMRP) was formed to assist the Town with ongoing stewardship of the park. Working with the Town, the Friends group has enabled a number of improvement projects over the years, including rebuilding the playground in the woods, replacing picnic tables, facilitating a memorial bench program, monitoring the health of Hill’s Pond, rebuilding the pond retaining wall, resurfacing the paths with permeable material to facilitate drainage and installing a pond aeration system. The Friends also helped secure funds to rebuild a crumbling pond wall originally built in the 1930s and to eradicate the invasive weeds that appeared after the dredging.



Hill's Pond in Menotomy Rocks Park. Credit: David Bean

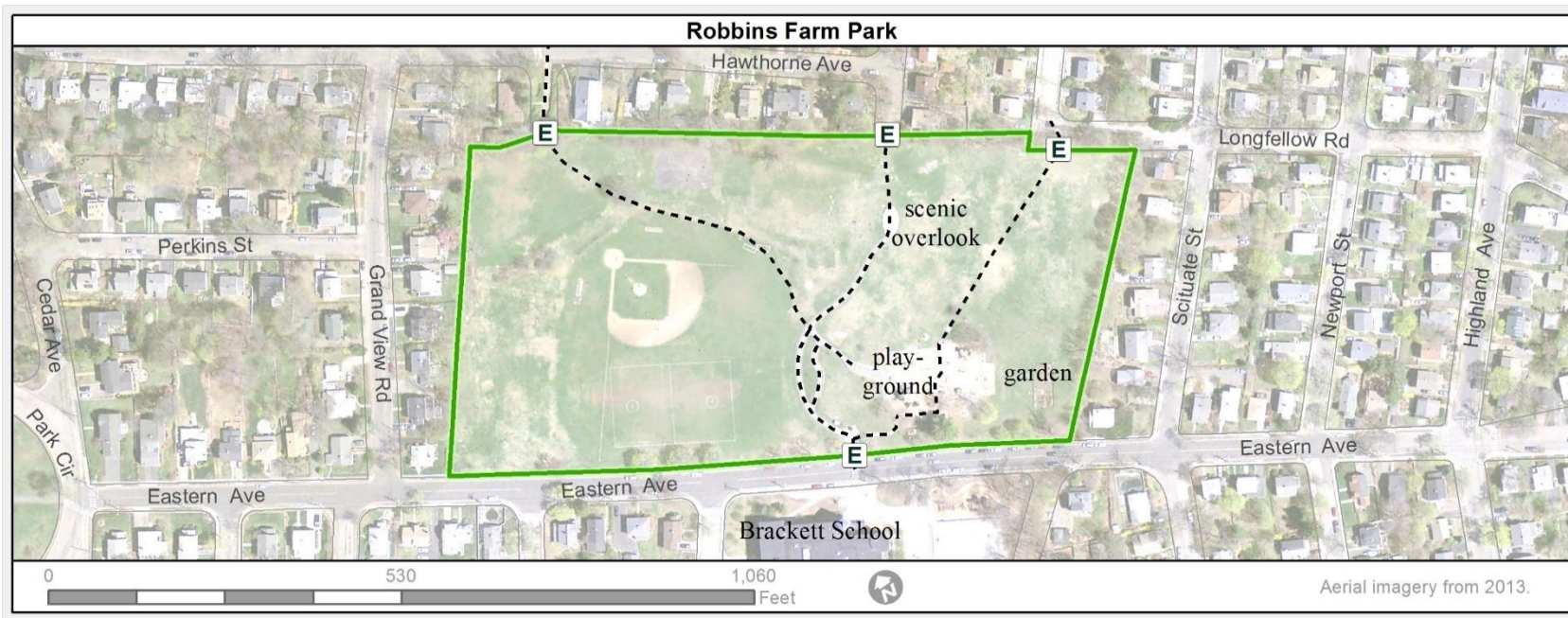
In 2007 the Town funded a capital improvement project for the property, and the park underwent an extensive renovation to its pathway system in an attempt to help control erosion and pond sedimentation. Included in the project were improved controlled access points to the pond, pond aerators, improved drainage and a renovated rear field.

The park is used daily for walking, jogging, picnicking, and dog walking, and seasonally for ice skating and fishing. Special activities include the annual "Spooky Walk" at Halloween; Shakespeare in the Park in conjunction with Arlington Center for the Arts and other Friends groups; and many other educational, sporting, and cultural events. In 2014, Menotomy Rocks Park hosted “Art Rocks Menotomy!,” a juried art installation sponsored by the Arlington Park and Recreation Commission, Arlington Public Art, and the Arlington Center for the Arts.

Size: 35.1 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission /Town of Arlington

Current Use: Recreation/Conservation



19. Robbins Farm Park

From 1880 to 1941, at least three generations of the Robbins family farmed this land in Arlington Heights, and historical records cite a Robbins family farming the site during the Revolutionary War. In December 1941, Town Meeting voted to acquire the land for a public park by eminent domain, at a price of \$33,800.

With its spectacular view of the Boston skyline to attract them, residents use the Robbins Farm fields, court, and playground year-round for a wide variety of active and passive recreational activities. Many special events, like the 4th of July celebration and a variety of concerts, are held at the park and sponsored by the active Friends of Robbins Farm Park (FoRFP).

The Park and Recreation Commission, working with the Friends, had a master plan created for the site with students from the Radcliffe Seminar program in landscape design in 1999-2000. A final master plan and cost estimates for the entire site were prepared and a landscape architecture firm was commissioned. The first phase of the project in 2003 included renovation of the hillside slides, new paths and playground equipment, picnic area, additional trees, and the creation of a vista overlook area where the crumbling tennis courts stood. In future phases of the overall project, renovations to the baseball and soccer fields and historic amenities will be considered.

In recent years, maintaining the unique and very popular hillside slides has presented a continuing challenge. With the combined effort of the Town and FoRFP, they were again rebuilt in 2012. A co-operative educational garden has also been launched by a core group of dedicated

gardeners with garden privileges available to the general community through the Recreation Department. The ForFP are also exploring the possibility of having a replica made and installed of the statue of a dog that was favored by children of the community during the property's farming days.

Size: 11.1 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Passive and active recreation



Sledding at Robbins Farm Park with a view of Boston. Credit: Roly Chaput

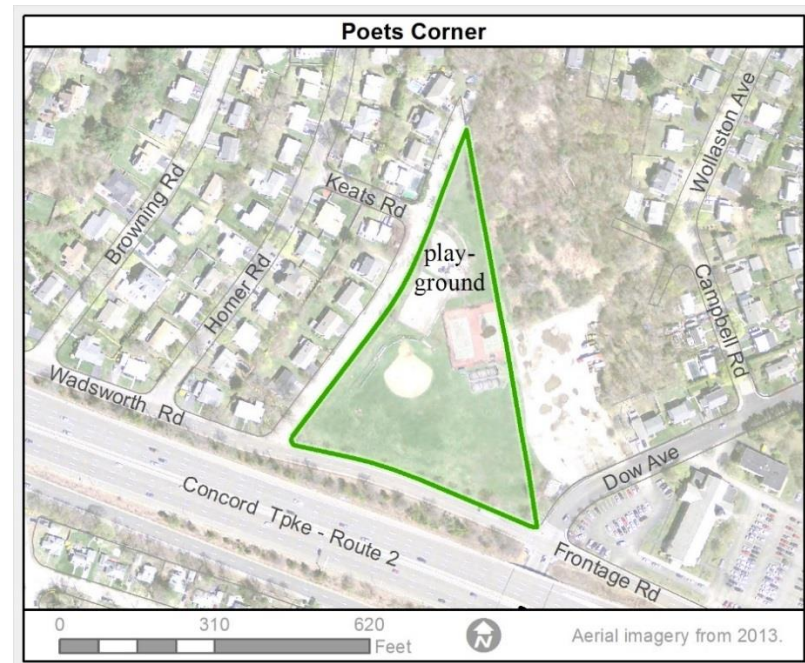
20. Poets Corner

Poets Corner Park is located in the southwest area of Arlington, off the Route 2 service road at Dow Avenue. The park has a playground, softball/little league field, a multi-purpose grassy outfield, basketball courts, and an area of wetlands. Tennis courts are in a deteriorated state and are no longer used. The youth baseball organization erects two batting cages seasonally that are available for use by the public when not in use by the baseball organization. Parking is available on adjacent streets. Though many uses occur in the lot that abuts the park, this land belongs to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston.

Size: 3.8 acres

Managing Agency/Owner: Park and Recreation Commission/Town of Arlington

Current Use: Recreation



Open Space Inventory Tables

Two tables detail Arlington's publicly and privately owned open space and recreation parcels of significant value. These tables were initially prepared by the Department of Planning and Community Development and have been updated for this 2015 report. Table 5-1 lists the zoning districts in which inventoried open spaces are located. It is not an inclusive list of all zoning districts in Arlington.

Table 5-1 List of Zoning Classes, Codes, and Brief Description:

Full Name	Class	Code	Description
Residence 0	Residence	R0	Large lot, single-family residential
Residence 1	Residence	R1	Single-family residential
Residence 2	Residence	R2	Two-family residential
Business 3	Business	B3	Major business district
Business 5	Business	B5	Central business district
Mixed Use	Mixed Use	MU	Mixed- use district (per special permit)
Planned Unit Development	Planned Unit Development	PUD	Large-scale, multi-use development district
Industrial	Industrial	I	Industry, manufacturing, assembly, etc.
Open Space	Open Space	OS	Undeveloped and recreation land

Table 5-2 (a and b) is an inventory of public and private open spaces in the Town. The column headings are described here briefly:

Property: Name of the open space site.

Acres: Details the site's acreage.

Location: Names the major street(s) nearest the parcel.

Manager/Owner: Names the agency (or agencies) charged with managing the property and the owner of the property.

Current Use: Lists the most common or major uses of the site and special features and facilities.

Condition: Provides a general description of the maintenance/usability of the site

Public Access: Describes general accessibility factors, use of fees, etc.

ADA Self-Evaluation: Refers to the appendices where ADA-related information is explained.

Zoning: Indicates how the site is currently zoned by the Town.

Protection Status/Grants/Deed Restrictions: Lists any grants received for purchase or improvement of site, as well as Art. 97 protection or conservation restrictions.

Structures: Identifies buildings and other structures on the site.

Water Resources: Notes the water bodies on the site.

Environmental Challenges: Identifies key challenges on the site.

Comments/Proposed Renovations/Recreation Potential: Includes additional information about the site, such as any changes in status currently underway and proposed capital improvements, the names of active volunteer citizens groups, and opportunities or potential changes that could be considered on the site.

Table 5-2a. Inventory of Open Space in Arlington, Publicly Held Property (updated Fall 2014-Spring 2015)

Property Name (Public)	Acres	Location	Manager/ Owner	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Self- Evaluation
Alewife Brook and Mystic River Reservation	32.1	Alewife Brook and Mystic Valley Parkways	Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) / Comm. Of Mass.	Passive Recreation/ Conservation State reservations along waterways with some walking/biking trails, boardwalks, open space and landscaped areas, benches	Fair to Good in different areas	Some walking and biking trails along the brook and river; Parking at various locations	N/A (State-owned)
Arlington High School	20.8	Mass. Ave.	School Dept./ Town of Arlington	Education/ Recreation A newly-renovated turf field, new six-lane track, one baseball field, one softball/little league field, one multi-purpose practice field, and two basketball courts	Good	Parking	Peirce Field See Appendix E
Arlington Reservoir	21.3 in Arlington (66 total; 44.7 in Lexington)	Lowell St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Dept. of Public Works/ Town of Arlington	Conservation/ Flood Control/ Recreation Year-round use of trail; seasonal use of swimming area	Good - sanded beach, parking area, walking trail	Accessible tot lot; learn to swim programs; parking; site access; pathways; entrance, stairs, doors, restrooms	Reservoir Beach See Appendix E
Arlington's Great Meadows	183.3	Mass. Ave. and Maple St. in Lexington	Board of Selectmen/ Dept. of Public Works/ Town of Arlington	Conservation/ Passive Recreation Undeveloped wetlands and natural open space; Walking and biking trails on uplands and boardwalks	Good	Adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway; walking entrances from several streets in Lexington	See Appendix F
Bishop School Playground / Field	5.7	Stowecroft Rd.	Park and Recreation Comm. / Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education Softball/little league field, open field area used for soccer, hardtop basketball area, and a playground.	Good	Parking, site access, pathways	See Appendix E
Brackett School	3.1	Eastern Ave.	School Dept./ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education Playground and hardtop basketball area.	Good	Parking	See Appendix F
Brattle Street	0.54	Brattle St.	Conservation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Conservation Undeveloped wooded area	Good	Very limited	See Appendix F
Buzzell Fields	3.6	Summer St.	Park and Recreation Comm. / Town of Arlington	Recreation Two little league/softball fields, a playground, picnic tables, basketball court and access to bike path.	Good	Drop-off, on-street parking; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	See Appendix E
Cooke's Hollow	0.75	Mystic St.	Conservation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Passive Recreation Historic park adjacent to Mill Brook and waterfall; benches	Fair-small natural open area, steep slopes	Street parking; flat unpaved footpath	See Appendix F
Crosby School and Playground	3.8	Oxford St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ ARB/ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education Green space used for soccer, playground, and four tennis courts.	Good	Parking, site access, path	See Appendix E

Property Name (Public)	Zoning	Protection Status/ Grants/ Deed Restriction	Structures	Water Resources	Environmental Challenges	Comments/ Proposed Renovations/ Recreational Potential
Alewife Brook and Mystic River Reservation	OS	Art. 97		Alewife Brook Mystic Lakes Mystic River	Water quality impaired; CSO overflows; Invasive aquatic plants	See Chapter 5 text, site A DCR Alewife Reservation and Mystic River Master Plans are in place
Arlington High School	R1		School buildings, service shed, bleachers, press box, concession stand, scoreboard	Mill Brook culverted under the school grounds and football field	Invasive plants	Major renovations or rebuilding of High School will be needed over the next five years.
Arlington Reservoir	OS	Land and Water Conservation Fund	Maintenance building, snack bar, restrooms	Freshwater reservoir; Mill Brook	Water quality not swimmable; Invasive aquatic plants; Invasive terrestrial plants along shoreline	See Chapter 5 text, site 2 Vision 2020 Reservoir Committee; Aquatic weed harvesting done almost annually
Arlington's Great Meadows	RM, RO, WPD	Urban Self-Help; Art. 97		Over half the area is wetland and flood plains; source of Reservoir/Mill Brook	Invasive plants: Japanese Knotweed, garlic mustard, phragmites	See Chapter 5 text, site 1 Protected wetlands per Town of Lexington Zoning Bylaws; Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows
Bishop School Playground / Field	R1 / OS	Land and Water	School			
Brackett School	R1		School			
Brattle Street	OS	Art. 97			Invasive plants	
Buzzell Fields	OS	CDBG; Land and Water; Art. 97		Mill Brook culverted below ground	Flooding	See Chapter 5 text, site 9
Cooke's Hollow	OS	Art. 97		Mill Brook open	Erosion and invasive plants	See Chapter 5 text, site 10
Crosby School and Playground	R1	Land and Water	School (now privately owned); Tennis Courts			

Property Name (Public)	Acres	Location	Manager/ Owner	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Self-Evaluation
Crusher Lot and Ottoson Field	6	Gray St.	Park and Recreation Comm., School Dept. / Town of Arlington	Passive and Active Recreation Unimproved wooded lot with rough footpaths; softball/little league field and practice areas	Fair	Parking, site access, paths	See Appendix E
Cutter School / Reinhart Playground	0.5	School and Robbins Sts.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Playground and sitting area	Good	Parking, site access, pathway	See Appendix E
Dallin School Playground / Florence Field	5.3	Florence Ave.	Park and Recreation Comm./ School Dept./ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education Little league/softball field, a large open green space for soccer/lacrosse, a playground, small spray park, a small basketball area	Good	Parking, site access, paths	See Appendix E
Ed Burns Arena	2.4	Summer St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington/ DCR/ Comm. of Mass.	Recreation An indoor ice facility, regulation size rink, spectator seating for 1,085 people, complete snack bar and vending machines, skate rentals and sharpening. Also used in summer for day camp activities.	Poor	Parking, ramps, site access, path, stairs; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	See Appendix E
Forest St. Conservation	1	Forest St.	Conservation Commission/ Town of Arlington	Conservation Wetland covered with vegetation	Good	Very limited access	See Appendix F
Gibbs Jr. High School	2.7	Foster and Tufts Sts.	ARB / Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Two playgrounds available to the public (after 6pm and on weekdays) and an indoor basketball court/multi-use area.	Good	Parking, site access, path of travel; entrances, stairs, doors, restroom, floors, fountains, switches	See Appendix F
Hardy School	2.5	Lake St.	School Dept./ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education Playground and sitting areas	Good	Parking	See Appendix F
Hibbert St. Playground	0.5	Hibbert St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Playground	Fair	Parking, site access, paths	See Appendix E
Hurd / Reservoir Fields	6.1	Drake Rd.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Two softball/little league fields, large open field used for soccer, access to bike path and the Reservoir.	Fair	Pervious parking, site access, paths; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	See Appendix E
Jefferson Cutter House and Whittemore Park	0.3	Whittemore Park, Mass. Ave.	ARB/Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Cultural/ Historic House Shaded park with benches; brick sidewalks; site of art exhibits and festivals	Excellent	Parking nearby; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	See Appendix F
Locke School Playground	0.2	Davis Rd.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Playground and sitting area	Excellent	Parking, site access	See Appendix E

Property Name (Public)	Zoning	Protection Status/ Grants/ Deed Restriction	Structures	Water Resources	Environmental Challenges	Comments/ Proposed Renovations/ Recreational Potential
Crusher Lot and Ottoson Field	R1/OS	Crusher Lot-Art. 97	Ottoson Middle School		Invasive plants	Potential to clean up the woods and improve walking paths
Cutter School / Reinhart Playground	OS	Art. 97	Former school, now condos			Adjoining condominiums in former school
Dallin School Playground / Florence Field	R1/OS	CDBG for Tot Lot; Land and Water	School			
Ed Burns Arena	R1	Art. 97	Indoor skating rink (owned by state)			See Chapter 5 text, site 6 Adjacent to Summer Street Sports Complex
Forest St. Conservation	OS	Art. 97			Invasive plants	
Gibbs Jr. High School	R1		Former school, now leased to: Arlington Center for the Arts, Kelliher Center, Lesley- Ellis School			Arts, education, and recreational uses
Hardy School	R1	CDBG	School			
Hibbert St. Playground	OS	Land and Water Conservation Fund; Art. 97; CDBG			Invasive plants	Renovations completed in 2014-2015
Hurd / Reservoir Fields	OS	Art. 97		Mill Brook borders the fields	Bank erosion; Flooding; Invasive plants	See Chapter 5 text, site 2 Bordering Mill Brook and Arlington Reservoir
Jefferson Cutter House and Whittemore Park	B3	CDBG; Art. 97	Jefferson Cutter House (historic protection)			Dallin Museum; Chamber of Commerce office
Locke School Playground	OS	CDBG				Adjoining condominiums in former school

Property Name (Public)	Acres	Location	Manager/ Owner	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Self-Evaluation
Magnolia Park and Field	3.3	Magnolia St. and Herbert St	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Playground, basketball court, large open field used for soccer and lacrosse, community gardens area, and access to the bike path.	Good	Parking and ramps; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	See Appendix E
Mass. DPW site (Route 2)	1.1	Sylvia St.	DPW/ Comm. of Mass.	Infrastructure	Good	N/A	N/A (State-owned)
McClennen Park	20.3	Summer St.	Park and Recreation Comm. / Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Conservation/ Flood Control Playground, skate boarding ramps, walking trail, two soccer fields, one little league field. Retention pond, wetlands and brook.	Good	Parking, ramps, pathways	See Appendix E
Meadowbrook Park	3.3	Mystic St.	Conservation Commission/ Town of Arlington	Conservation Wetlands area with limited rough walking trails.	Fair-Good natural open space	Accessible from Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	See Appendix F
Medford Boat Club	1	Robinhood Rd.	DCR /Comm. of Mass.	Recreation Waterfront on Mystic Lakes around private boat club.	Good	Street parking, grassy area along lake shore	N/A (State-owned)
Menotomy Rocks Park	35.1	Jason St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Conservation Two open green spaces, a picnic area, playground, walking trails and seasonal pond fishing or ice skating.	Good	Street parking, pathways, benches and tables; some rough, hilly trails	See Appendix E
Minuteman Bikeway	30.1		Towns of Arlington, Lexington, Bedford/ MBTA	Recreation/ Transportation Well-established commuter and recreational bicycle and multi-use path	Very Good	Parking on adjacent streets or in town lots; flat, paved surface with many ramps	See Appendix F
Monument Park	0.4	Mass. Ave./ Broadway	Town of Arlington	Historic war memorial with landscaping	Very Good	Street parking	See Appendix F
Mt. Gilboa	10.7	Crescent Hill Ave.	Conservation Commission / Town of Arlington	Conservation/ Passive Recreation Steep, rocky forested area	Good	Street parking	See Appendix F
Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	58.9	Medford St.	Cemetery Comm./ DPW/ Town of Arlington	Cemetery Historic cemetery in a landscaped, park-like setting	Good	Street parking	See Appendix F
MWRA Pump Station	4.1	Brattle St.	MWRA/ Comm. of Mass.	Infrastructure	Good	N/A	N/A (State-owned)
North Union Park/ Lussiano Field	5	North Union St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Playground, basketball court, three picnic tables, one softball/little league field, one baseball field, and a big open field used for soccer. Seasonal spray pool.	Good	Street or school lot parking; drop-off, site access, paths	See Appendix E

Property Name (Public)	Zoning	Protection Status/ Grants/ Deed Restriction	Structures	Water Resources	Environmental Challenges	Comments/ Proposed Renovations/ Recreational Potential
Magnolia Park and Field	OS	CDBG; Land and Water; Art. 97		Alewife Brook floodplain	Flooding	See Chapter 5 text, site 14
Mass. DPW site (Route 2)	R1		Maintenance Bldg.			
McClennen Park	OS	Art. 97	Skateboard Park	Detention pond for Reeds Brook	Invasive plants	See Chapter 5 text, site 4
Meadowbrook Park	OS	CDBG; Art. 97		Mouth of Mill Brook; Floodplain	Invasive plants, flooding	See Chapter 5 text, site 11 Adjacent to Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Medford Boat Club	R0	Art. 97	Boathouse (private)	Mystic Lakes are swimmable	Aquatic invasive plants	
Menotomy Rocks Park	OS	Land and Water; Hill's Pond-Clean Lakes and Ponds; CDBG; Art. 97		Hills Pond	Invasive aquatic plants and land plants	See Chapter 5 text, site 18
Minuteman Bikeway	OS	Self-Help; Urban Self-Help; Land and Water		Portions adjacent to Mill Brook and Bow Run (No-name Brook)	Invasive plants along many parts of the path	See Chapter 5 text, site B Former Bedford Branch RR; runs full length of the town from Cambridge to Lexington; Arlington section resurfaced 2002; Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee
Monument Park	R1		War Monument			Adjoining Central Fire Station
Mt. Gilboa	OS	Land and Water; Art. 97; Historic District	Single-family house (rented)		Trail erosion; Some invasive plants	See Chapter 5 text, site 3
Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	R1		Maintenance buildings, Chapel	Mill Brook runs through center of area	Invasive plants	See Chapter 5 text, site 11 Limited burial space remaining; columbarium and green burial areas planned
MWRA Pump Station	I		Pump Station	Adjacent to Mill Brook		
North Union Park/ Lussiano Field	R1/OS	CDBG; Land and Water; Art. 97 - North Union Playground	Thompson School (rebuilt in 2012-2013) Spray park	Manmade water park		See Chapter 5 text, site 13

Property Name (Public)	Acres	Location	Manager/ Owner	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Self- Evaluation
Parallel Park	1.2	Medford St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Playground, basketball court and open space; benches	Good	Street parking; drop-off and site access	See Appendix E
Park Circle Water Tower	1.8	Park Circle	MWRA/ Comm. of Mass.	Passive Recreation Grassy area surrounding water tower	Good	Street parking, pathways	N/A (State- owned)
Parmenter School	1.2	Irving St.	Park and Recreation Comm. / ARB/ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education Playground and basketball court; benches.	Good	Street parking, site access, pathways	See Appendix E
Peirce School	2.3	Park Ave. Ext.	School Dept. / Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education Playground, basketball court, and green space with benches.	Good	Street parking	See Appendix E
Poets Corner	3.8	Wollaston Ave.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Playground, softball/little league field, basketball courts, and unimproved tennis courts.	Fair	Parking, site access, paths	See Appendix E
Ridge St. Conservation	0.6	Ridge St.	Conservation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Conservation Undeveloped open space	Good	Limited access	See Appendix F
Robbins Farm Park	11.1	Eastern Ave.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Baseball diamond, large green space area used for soccer, a playground, summertime movies in the park, a 4th of July celebration and other activities	Good-Excellent	Parking, site access	See Appendix E
Spy Pond Park, Spy Pond and Scannell Fields	15.0; Spy Pond water surface (100)	Pond Lane, Wellington St., Linwood St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Dept. Public Works/ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Conservation Park: playground, boat ramp and access to the bike path Spy Pond Field: baseball diamond, little league field, stands to watch athletic activities, a large open field used for soccer, and five tennis courts. Scannell Field: softball/little league field, and stands to watch athletic activities.	Park- excellent; Playing fields- good; Playground- good	Parking, site access, slopes, paths, viewing stands; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	See Appendix E
Stratton School / Greeley Playground/ Pheasant Ave. Park	4.1	Pheasant Ave.	Park and Recreation Comm./ School Dept./ Town of Arlington	Recreation/ Education Playground, hard surface for basketball, open green space	Fair	Parking, site access, paths	See Appendix E

Property Name (Public)	Zoning	Protection Status/ Grants/ Deed Restriction	Structures	Water Resources	Environmental Challenges	Comments/ Proposed Renovations/ Recreational Potential
Parallel Park	OS	CDBG; Land and Water; Art. 97				
Park Circle Water Tower	R1		Water Tower			
Parmenter School	R1		School (leased)			
Peirce School	R1		School			
Poets Corner	OS	CDBG; Land and Water; Art. 97	Tennis Courts (unusable)	Adjacent wetland area	Invasive plants	See Chapter 5 text, site 20
Ridge St. Conservation	OS	Art. 97			Invasive plants	
Robbins Farm Park	OS	Land and Water; Art. 97				See Chapter 5 text, site 19 Friends of Robbins Farm Park; Cooperative community garden
Spy Pond Park, Spy Pond and Scannell Fields	OS	CDBG; Land and Water; DEM Lakes and Ponds Restoration; Art. 97	Tennis Courts; seat walls; playground equipment; bleachers at Spy Pond (Hornblower) Field and Scannell (Santini) Field	Spy Pond	Water quality; Invasive aquatic and shoreline plants; endangered sedge	See Chapter 5 text, site 16 Friends of Spy Pond Park; Vision 2020 Spy Pond Committee; Tennis court renovations in 2015
Stratton School / Greeley Playground/ Pheasant Ave. Park	R1/OS	Land and Water; Greeley Field-Art. 97	School			Friends of Greeley Park at Stratton

Property Name (Public)	Acres	Location	Manager/ Owner	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Self-Evaluation
Summer Street Sports Complex	12.7 (playing fields and play grounds)	Summer St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington (land)/ DCR/Comm. of Mass (building)	Recreation Hill's Hill: hilly wooded area with walking trails; open field for various youth sports or activities, and ADA accessible playground; Buck Field: softball/little league field with bleachers; Summer St. Park/Field: playground; multigenerational area with benches, tables, and bocce courts; basketball court; baseball diamond; and a large open field used for field hockey, Frisbee, etc.	Good – fields and playgrounds	Parking, slopes, ramps, site access, paths; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway and Ed Burns Arena	Hill's Hill, Buck Field, Summer St. Park See Appendix E
Thorndike Field	10	Thorndike St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Large fields for soccer and lacrosse; off-leash dog park; access to bike path	Good	Parking, ramps, site access; adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	See Appendix E
Thorndike St. Wetlands	1.7	Thorndike St.	DCR/ Comm. of Mass.	Conservation Natural open space and wetlands	Fair	Limited access, though adjacent to Minuteman Bikeway	N/A (State-owned)
Town Hall Civic Block	2.7	Mass. Ave./ Academy St.	Town of Arlington	Multiple historic and civic buildings; formal landscaped gardens with water fountain, pool, benches; playground; grassy open spaces	Good		See Appendix F
Turkey Hill	10.7	Brand St.	Park and Recreation and Conservation Comm./ MWRA	Passive recreation/ Conservation Rough trails on rocky, hilly terrain	Fair	Street parking; paved road for walking only	See Appendix F
Uncle Sam Park & Monument	0.2	Mass. Ave./ Mystic St.	Board of Selectmen/ Town of Arlington	Monument to Uncle Sam (born in Arlington) and small park near Town center	Good		See Appendix F
Waldo Park / Playground	1	Teel St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Playground, basketball court and open space. Public art/sculpture.	Excellent	Street parking; drop-off and site access	See Appendix E
Wellington Park	3	Grove St.	Park and Recreation Comm./ Town of Arlington	Recreation Five lighted tennis courts, adventure course, and open space with benches abutting Mill Brook.	Good	Street parking, site access, pathway along the brook	See Appendix E
Window on the Mystic	3	Mystic St.	Conservation Commission / Town of Arlington	Conservation Steep terrain with pathways and some built-in steps leading down to Upper Mystic Lake; bench on the shorefront	Good - natural open space	Limited access, steep steps	See Appendix F
Woodside Lane Conservation Land	0.6	Woodside Lane	Conservation Comm / Town of Arlington	Conservation Undeveloped woods on steep, rocky parcel	Good	Very limited access	See Appendix F

Property Name (Public)	Zoning	Protection Status/ Grants/ Deed Restriction	Structures	Water Resources	Environmental Challenges	Comments/ Proposed Renovations/ Recreational Potential
Summer Street Sports Complex	OS	Land and Water; Art. 97	Indoor skating rink (owned by state)		Invasive plants	See Chapter 5 text, site 6
Thorndike Field	OS	Art. 97		Alewife area floodplain	Invasive plants, flooding	See Chapter 5 text, site 14
Thorndike St. Wetlands	OS	Art. 97		Wetlands	Invasive plants, flooding	
Town Hall Civic Block	R1	Mass. Preservation Projects Fund	Town Hall, Central School, Whittemore- Robbins House, Memorial Gardens, Robbins Library, Old Burying Ground			See Chapter 5 text, site 17 Friends of Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden
Turkey Hill	OS	Art. 97	Water Tower- MWRA		Invasive plants	See Chapter 5 text, site 5 Turkey Hill Land Stewards
Uncle Sam Park & Monument	B5		Monument and Visitor Center			Renovations to Mass Ave/Pleasant Street intersection with Minuteman Bikeway planned in 2015-2016
Waldo Park / Playground	OS	CDBG; Land and Water; Art. 97				Friends of Waldo Park
Wellington Park	OS	Land and Water Conservation Fund; CDBG; Art. 97; Carol White PEP grant	Tennis Courts (lighted). Project Adventure challenge course	Adjacent to Mill Brook	Invasive plants	See Chapter 5 text, site 7 New playground planned, 2015-2016
Window on the Mystic	OS	CDBG; Self-Help; Art. 97		Upper Mystic Lake	Invasive plants	See Chapter 5 text, site 12
Woodside Lane Conservation	OS	Art. 97			Invasive plants	

Table 5-2b. Inventory of Open Space in Arlington, Privately Held Property (updated Fall 2014-Spring 2015)

Property Name (private)	Acres	Location	Manager / Owner	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Self Evaluation	Zoning	Protection Status/Grants/Deed Restriction	Structures	Water Resources	Environmental Challenges	Comments
Arlington 360 LLC and BrightView Assisted Living	8.7	Symmes Rd.	Arlington 360 LLC	Residential/ Assisted Living/ Conservation	N/A			MU	Conservation restriction held by Arlington Land Trust and Arlington Conservation Commission	Residential development and assisted living facility		Invasive plants; Erosion	Open space acres are accessible to the public under CR. Site has 18 acres total
Arlington Catholic High School Field	2.3	Summer St.	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston	Recreation	N/A			R1			Mill Brook in culvert under the field.	Invasive plants	Fencing prevents access between adjacent public open space
Armenian Cultural Institute	1.9	441 Mystic St.	Armenian Cultural Institute	Private/ Cultural	N/A			RO		Meeting Center	Lower Mystic Lake	Invasive plants	
Belmont Country Club	11.2	Kent Lane off Brewster Rd.	Belmont Country Club, Inc.	Recreation	N/A			R1					
Boston Gas Co.	2.3	307 Washington St.	Boston Gas Co.	Private Utility	N/A			R1					
Elizabeth Island	2	Spy Pond	Arlington Land Trust	Conservation	N/A	Small boats - access from Spy Pond Park		R1	Conservation Restriction held by Mass Audubon and Arlington Conservation Commission		Spy Pond	Invasive plants Erosion	
Jason Russell House	0.6	Mass. Ave./ Jason St.	Arlington Historical Society	Historical house and gardens	N/A			R2	Located in Jason-Gray Historic District	House and Museum			

Property Name (private)	Acres	Location	Manager / Owner	Current Use	Condition	Public Access	ADA Self Evaluation	Zoning	Protection Status/Grants/Deed Restriction	Structures	Water Resources	Environmental Challenges	Comments
Kelwyn Manor Park	1.8	Spy Pond Pkwy.	Kelwyn Manor Association	Recreation	N/A			R1		Playground	Spy Pond	Invasive plants	
Mugar Land	17.4	Concord Turnpike (Route 2)	Y & M Trust	Private-Undeveloped	N/A			PUD			Alewife floodplain	Flooding Invasive plants	40B Housing proposed in 2015; unresolved
Poets Corner	6.5	Wollaston Ave. and Kipling Road	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston	Parking/Wetland area	N/A			R1			Wetland	Invasive plants	
Prince Hall Cemetery	0.2	Gardner St.	Masonic Grand Lodge, Corp.	Cemetery/Historical	N/A			R1					
St. Paul's Cemetery	14.9	Broadway at Route 16	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston	Cemetery	N/A			R1		Chapel, Maintenance	Alewife Brook		
Winchester Country Club	48	468 Mystic St.	Winchester Country Club	Recreation	N/A			R0		Clubhouse, Maintenance	Upper Mystic Lake		